KIDDERMINSTER

Rural District Council.

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

AND

Inspector of Nuisances

FOR

1898.

Kidderminster:

PRINTED AT THE "SHUTTLE" OFFICE, WORCESTER STREET,

MDCCCXCVIV.

KIDDERMINSTER

Rural District Council.

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KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kidderminster District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

There have been during the year 232 Births registered in the district, or 22·7 per 1,000. Last year there were 213 or 20·88 per 1,000.

Mortality:

There have been 110 Deaths, or 10·78 per 1,000, a lower rate even than last year, when the rate was 11·47 per 1,000.

Sickness:

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, two in the Foreign, two in the Chaddesley division, and five in the Bewdley division. Of these nine cases, three have been removed to the Infectious Hospital, two of them, sisters, as private patients, from the Bewdley division, and one from Chaddesley Village. All have recovered.

Seven cases of Diphtheria have been notified, three from the Foreign (Chester Road, Lower Comberton and Foley Park), and four from the Chaddesley division (three at Hoobrook and one at Shenstone). All were very mild cases and did well. Six cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified, two from Broom and of the same family, both very mild cases. Two from Trimpley, mother and daughter, very severe and one of them fatal, the disease being contracted in Bewdley, one from Hemming Street, removed there from the Borough when sickening, and one from Franche.

Twenty-one cases of Erysipelas have been notified, all of which have recovered.

Measles was prevalent in January and February, necessitating the closing of Stone and Harvington Schools, and there were a number of cases at Cookley in April, but the disease was of a mild type, and there were no fatal cases.

The Inspector has well looked after and kept me promptly and continually informed concerning the surroundings and progress of the Infectious cases, and has superintended fumigation and disinfection when required. I consider he discharges these as well as the other duties of his office, in a very efficient and judicious manner.

I have visited the various portions of the district systematically as well as when called by special requirement, such as an outbreak of disease or the presence of unwholesome conditions in any locality.

January 13th. At inspector's request I visited Stanklin Lane, where, in a garden, an old woman was living, by day, in a miserable dark unventilated hut, with no fireplace or chimney, and so in constant danger from fire, and sleeping at night in a wooden pigstye, where, in severe weather, she might be frozen to death. A notice was served to obtain proper sleeping accommodation elsewhere.

January 17th. A case of Anthrax was reported in the herd at Oldington Corporation Farm, composed of twenty-four cows and a bull, all of which, though kept in separate sheds, drink at the same trough. I at once called on the Veterinary Inspector, and visited the Farm with him, saw the whole premises and arrangements as well as the cattle, and obtained from the Manager a promise that no milk from any of these cows should be used for food, or sold, and also cautioned him to keep under observation the man who had come in contact with the carcase. No further case occurred.

January 10th. Called Inspector's attention to defective drainage in Portway Place, Cookley. This was remedied upon service of Sanitary notice.

January 20th. In consequence of continued prevalence of Measles in Stone Parish, as reported by the Vicar and the Schoolmaster, and verified by the Inspector, I advised that the School be closed for an additional fortnight, from January 24th. And on January 24th, being informed by "Father Harris" that 23 out of 34 children attending Harvington School were ill with Measles, I advised the closing of that School for three weeks from that date.

February 5th. At Inspector's request I visited the ground opposite to Sutton Farm, in occupation of Wilks. A huge heap of garbage, said to be offal from the Borough Slaughter-houses, from Slaughtered Horses, and Fish refuse, but covered with Stable manure, was giving off a horrible stench, though the air was frosty. The smell was clearly perceptible 400 yards off, the distance within which the Borough Hospital lies, and the nuisance was dangerous to the residents in Foley Park and around. The heap of bones in the wood, referred to in last year's report, was not very offensive, but had been recently added to, blood-stained bones being visible. Inspector communicated with Wilks, and at my next visit, February 12th, I found the Garbage heap had been thickly covered with ashes, and the nuisance abated. No further nuisance of this kind occurred on this land till April 12th, when

another objectionable accumulation was found, and after notice, was covered with ashes as before. I have since visited the spot, and found no cause for complaint, but I think the Borough Sanitary Authorities might fairly be requested to give orders that garbage from their Slaughter-houses, and other refuse, shall not be disposed of in such a manner as to endanger the health of the Rural District.

February 17th. In consequence of an intimation from Dr. Fosbroke that a complaint had been made to him concerning the drainage of Somerleyton Avenue, I made a house to house visitation with your Inspector, informed Dr. Fosbroke of the unsatisfactory conditions existing there, and subsequently went over the whole ground again with him, and made a special report to you, pointing out the increasing danger of the soil pollution. The Inspector keeps a vigilant eye upon the dumbwells and drains in this spot, and several dumbwells have been moved further from the dwellings or re-constructed, but the dangerous soakage from these dumbwells into the soil of the tiny gardens, close to the houses, still goes on, and I trust you will deal with the matter before the warm weather comes again. I hope also that the day is not far distant when the drainage of Sutton Common will be connected with the Borough mains, and a proper system provided at Wribbenhall for the disposal of Sewage and House Refuse.

February 23rd. At Inspector's request I visited the Lower Barnes Farm, where a huge midden against the larder wall evidently drains into the well, as the water is too foul to be used, even for washing, and the cattle will not touch it. There is also a large, ten feet deep, wash-cistern, within three feet of this well. The only other source of water supply is a spring with several feet of mud in it, from which all the horses and cattle drink, thereby fouling it. A Sanitary notice was served to remove the midden, and provide a proper water supply, and this has been done.

April 14th. I visited Haywood's Cottages, Dobes Lane, Chaddesley, where dumb-well had been overflowing near the path. The cottage was occupied by a Laundress, and the dumb-well was quite inadequate without constant pumping. The owner, accordingly gave the Laundress notice to leave.

April 16th. I called Inspector's attention to dumb-well overflowing, and very offensive in gardens of Florentine Terrace Wribbenhall, close to the road. This has been rectified, and the privies, which were dangerously near the back of the houses, have been converted (as a temporary expedient) into pan closets.

August 19th. I received notification of two cases of Scarlet Fever at Coney Green Farm, whence a large proportion of the

milk supply of Stourport was said to be furnished. I visited the farm the same day, with the Inspector and saw the occupier and his men, as well as the premises and cattle, and could see no reason to think that the milk-supply had been infected. I directed that the cows should be milked by a person altogether unconnected with the farm, in his own vessels, and that no one connected with farm should have anything to do with the milk. The cases were removed as private patients to the Infectious Hospital, and no extension of the disease took place.

October 3rd. Frequent complaints have been made concerning the heap of ashes and refuse on Severn side, at Wribbenhall. I have often looked at this accumulation, which is unsightly, to say the least, but have never detected any night soil. There is, however, a quantity of kitchen and garden refuse, mixed with ashes, continually being deposited there, which is likely to become a nuisance from decomposition in damp and warm weather.

I will not trouble you with a number of somewhat similar but minor sanitary defects, which I have dealt with during the year.

Overcrowding has occurred in five instances, and has been abated, in every instance but one, where the cubic space is just over the legal minimum, and the occupants are endeavouring to obtain better accommodation.

Action has been taken in six instances, in consequence of deficient water supply, and the effects of long drought have been felt in many places, especially in the Arley district.

I trust you will not lose sight of the need in Wribbenhall for a proper supply of water, free from the suspicion which justly attaches itself to wells sunk in the Sand-rock, in close proximity to old Dumb-wells.

The Slaughter-houses have been regularly visited, and, with slight exceptions, found in proper order.

The Bakehouses, also, I have looked after and found in good order, with one exception, where calling in on washing-day, I found the week's wash drying in the bake-house, and some of the damp clothes laid upon the cooling bread. A sharp notice on the subject was sent to the Baker, prohibiting such an abuse in the future.

With regard to Dairies and Cowsheds, and considering the result of recent investigations concerning the prevalence of tuberculosis among cattle, it is to be hoped that shortly a regular and

periodic Veterinary Inspection of all Dairyherds will be made compulsory, and that by this means, and also by the substitution of public Slaughter-houses for the private ones, with Veterinary Inspection of all animals before, and carcases after, slaughter, the public may be supplied with milk and meat free from Tubercle Bacilli.

Bearing in mind the exceptions to which I have specially referred, I consider the district is at the present time, and has been during the year, in a good sanitary condition, and the health of the inhabitants very satisfactory, and

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. H. ADDENBROOKE.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

(A) *TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year* 1898, *in the* KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT, *classified according to* DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate Localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under five years of age.												
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		Scarlatina.	Measles.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Cancer.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.
Whole District ..	110	17	3	2	7	29	52	Under 5	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	..	..	2	12	20
								5 upw'ds	..	..	1	..	1	1	8	9	16	8	5	41	90
Totals	110	17	3	2	7	29	52	Under 5	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3	..	..	2	12	20
								5 upw'ds	..	..	1	..	1	1	8	9	16	8	5	41	90
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
								5 upw'ds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Area and Population of the District to which this Return relates:—Area, in Acres, 32,935; Population (last Census) 9,941; Estimated to middle of 1898, 10,200. Death Rates:—General, 10·78 per 1000 Population, estimated to middle of 1898; Infant (under One year of age) 73·28 per 1000 Births Registered.

KIDDERMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT.

(B) *TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year* 1898, *in the Kidderminster Rural District; classified according to* DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New cases of sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital		
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1898			Smallpox	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Erysipela.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid
Kidderminster Foreign ..	2831	2998	62	Under 5	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 up'wds	..	..	3	..	4	6	..	..	..
Wolverley District	2751	2751	52	Under 5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 up'wds	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..
Chaddesley District	2242	2334	63	Under 5	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
				5 up'wds	..	2	4	..	1	3	1	..	..
Bewdley District	2117	2117	55	Under 5	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
				5 up'wds	..	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Totals	9941	10200	232	Under 5	..	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
				5 up'wds	..	6	7	..	5	21	3	..	..

Notification of Infectious Disease has been compulsory in this District since January 1st, 1891.
Isolation Hospital:—Borough Hospital, Stourport Road, Kidderminster.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1898.

Rural District of Kidderminster.

Area in Acres, 32,935.

Population (1881) 10,429.
" (1891) 99,41.
Decrease (1881-91) 488.
Estimated Population (1898) 10.200.

Name of Medical Officer of Health:—E. H. Addenbrooke.

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric or Typhoid	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Cancer.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis and Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.
...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	8	8	2	10	16	7	53

REGISTERED BIRTHS.			*REGISTERED DEATHS.*		
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
111	121	232	44	66	110

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Under One Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
17	3	2	7	29	52

Mortality per 1,000 of Population living during same period:—

Birth Rate, 22·7 Death Rate, 10·78. (A) Zymotic Death Rate, 0·49. (B) Infantile Mortality, 73·28. Phthisis Death Rate, 0·78. Respiratory Death Rate, 1·96. Small Pox Death Rate, 0. Measles Death Rate, 0. Scarlatina Death Rate, 0. Diphtheria Death Rate, 0. Whooping Cough Death Rate, 0·09. (C) Fever Death Rate, 0·09. Diarrhœa Death Rate, 0·29. Cancer Death Rate, 0·78.

Arising in this District, and not including total admissions to the Infectious Hospital.	Small Pox	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Fever.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Membranous Croup.
Cases	...	...	9	7	6	21	...	...
Deaths	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	...
Hospital Cases	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Diseases Prevalent—Measles, period, January and April. Schools Closed—Stone and Harvington.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Kidderminster,
January 3rd, 1899.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kidderminster Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to present you with my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

The number of notices served for the removal and abatement of nuisances 286, as against last year 263,—increase 23,—relating to 170 nuisances as against 166 last year, increase 4. Of the 170 nuisances dealt with, 156 have been abated, leaving 14 outstanding.

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Foul privy ashpits	78
Defective drainage	17
Defective dumbwells	1
Accumulation or deposit	10
Filthy or unwholesome dwelling houses	11
Defective or dilapidated privies	7
Accumulation of dead horse bones	1
Want of proper water supplies	6
Foul overflowing dumb wells	9
Defective water closets	4
Foul and offensive ditches	3
Defective soft water cistern	1
Two privy ashpits converted into earth closets (namely)	4
Stale wash	2
Over crowding	5
Foul piggeries	6
Foul cesspools	2
Putrid sheep	1
Miscellaneous	2
Total -	170

THE INFECTIOUS NOTIFICATION ACT OF 1889.

Under this Act 43 certificates have been received from the Medical Officer of Health, relating to the following fevers, as against 57 last year; decrease 14.

IN THE CHADDESLEY DISTRICT,—*Comprising the Parishes of Chaddesley Corbett, Stone, Broom and Rushock.*

Scarlet Fever		...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	4
Enteric	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3

—Total, 11 as against 11 last year.

Two of the cases (Scarlet Fever) one at Chaddesley village, which was removed to the Borough Infectious Hospital, and one Bradford Cottages, which was isolated at home. Both these cases were imported. Four at Hoobrook (3 Diphtheria, 1 Erysipelas); three Broom (2 Enteric, 1 Erysipelas), and two Shenstone (1 Diphtheria and 1 Erysipelas.) No Infectious Disease was reported for Rushock Parish.

THE BEWDLEY DISTRICT, *Comprising Ribbesford, Dowles, and Upper Arley.*

Scarlet Fever		...	...	5
Erysipelas	..	...	...	2

—Total 7, as against 10 last year. Decrease, 3.

Five cases were in the neighbourhood of Wribbenhall (1 Scarlet Fever, 2 Erysipelas), and Catchem's End (2 Fever), and 2 Scarlet Fever cases in Ribbesford parish, which were removed into the Borough Infectious Hospital as private patients. Dowles and Upper Arley parishes being free from any Infectious Disease.

THE WOLVERLEY DISTRICT,—*Comprising Wolverley and Churchill Parishes.*

—Erysipelas 10, as against 13 last year. Decrease, 3.

.All the cases were Erysipelas, and no cases for removal into Hospital. Two of the cases were at Churchill (Erysipelas), 3 Broadwaters (Erysipelas), 3 Cookley (Erysipelas), 1 Cornsall (Erysipelas), and 1 Blakeshall (Erysipelas).

The Foreign of Kidderminster.

Erysipelas	6
Scarlet Fever	2
Diphtheria	3
Enteric	3
Typhoid	1

—Total 15, as against 23 last year. Decrease, 8. One case (Enteric) proved fatal.

No removal into the Borough Hospital.

The cases were at Foley Park, 2 (1 Erysipelas, 1 Diphtheria); Woodhouse Farm, 1 (Erysipelas); Stourport Road, 1 (Scarlet Fever); Puxton, 2 (1 Erysipelas, 1 Scarlet Fever); Chester Road, 1 (Diphtheria); Trimpley, 2 (Enteric); Hemming Street, 2 (1 Enteric, 1 Erysipelas); Franche, 2 (1 Erysipelas, 1 typhoid); Pratt's Wharf, 1 (Erysipelas), and Comberton Lane, 1 (Diphtheria).

The Borough Infectious Hospital.

Cases removed into Hospital, 3, as against 10 last year Decrease, 7. Two of these were private patients.

Summary of Fever Cases.

Scarlet Fever Cases,		9	as against	31	last year.	Decrease 22
Erysipelas	...	21	,,	12	,,	Increase 9
Diphtheria	...	7	,,	11	,,	Decrease 4
Enteric	...	5	,,	3	,,	Increase 2
Typhoid	...	1	,,	none	,,	Increase 1

Measles, &c.

Stone School was closed on a prolonged Order from the 24th of January, for two weeks, owing to Measles in the Parish; also Harvington School, for three weeks, from January 24th, through the same cause. Medical Officer of Health and two Members of the Council signed the Order. Three cases of Measles appeared in Cookley April 12th. Visited and other children not to attend School. These were reported upon.

Water Supply.

On the whole the Water Supply of the District has been well maintained. Arley parish suffered the most during the hot weather. Many samples of water were tested as to their purity and wholesomeness.

Public Health Water Act of 1878.

Under Section 6 C. 25 of this Act, notice has been served with respect to the School House at Churchill, in course of erection, for being supplied with water fit for drinking and domestic purposes.

Disinfection.

In all cases of Fever a plentiful supply of Disinfectants has been provided, fumigating done, and cleansing and white-washing.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Two persons have been placed on the Register during the year as Purveyors of Milk, and those on the Register have been regularly visited, and found in a satisfactory condition, cleansing and white-washing having been done.

Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses.

These have been inspected from time to time and are kept in a satisfactory manner, cleansing and white-washing having been done, except in one instance of a bakehouse reported to me by the Medical Officer of Health, with his instructions to send a caution for not keeping same in a proper manner, which was done.

Canal Boats.

No. of boats inspected ... ... 113—decrease, 3.

No. conforming with Acts and Regulations 106.

No. of boats with one or more infringements 7.

Total number of persons found on these boats: males 232, women 13, children 12.

Breach of Regulation of interior requiring painting 3

Breach of Sec. IV. and Regulation 9 and 11 1

Not carrying or producing Certificate, Sec. 3 2

Certificate not identifying owner with Boat Marking, Act, 1877. Act, 1884 1

I again testify to the general condition of these boats; to the occupants of such being civil and rendering me assistance in my inspections, and to their health and comfort.

Systematic Inspection.

This is regularly carried out in all the District.

Special Inspections.

February 16th.—The whole of Foley Park (Report presented) being found in a sanitary condition, only 4 defects.

Somerleyton Avenue, in company with the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Addenbrooke, February 17th, and also several times since. Several improvements having been done, several Dumbwells done away with and removed farther away from dwellings, and also 17 residents served with a letter, as per instructions of this Council, cautioning them as to the disposal of sewage from the Dumbwells; also on complaint from Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council, as to accumulation of night soil and ashes by river-side, Wribbenhall. This has received my attention and visits from time to time, finding no night soil or anything offensive as a nuisance.

New Houses.

Nine New Houses have been or are in course of erection, 8 of these having the Borough of Kidderminster Town water laid on, and 1 coming under Public Health Water Supply Act.

The whole of the nuisances dealt with have been abated, with the exception of the 14 outstanding, no proceedings before justices having been taken.

Trusting that in my capacity as your Inspector of Nuisances I have given you satisfaction, and thanking you for your kind support in the discharge of those duties,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES STEADMAN,

Inspector of Nuisances.

January 31d, 1899.